

OUR MISSIONARY CONVENTIONS—ILLIOKOTA DISTRICT

Since the General conference, at Johnstown, Pa., it has been in my heart to institute several Missionary conventions in our district. With this in mind, I opened correspondence with brother I. D. Bowman, and through the kindness of the brethren in Philadelphia, and upon the unanimous request of the church in Milledgeville, he came among us Nov. 21, and began a series of Bible meetings in our Milledgeville church, which were continued three weeks, with great profit to us all, and resulted in five accessions to the church, and all spiritually benefited. Brother Bowman preached the Word with great power and fearlessness. These meetings were not designed wholly as a revival effort, but were largely on the line of the high calling of men in Christ Jesus, in which our brother dwelt much on the infinite blessings that our heavenly Father designed to give to all his people who will lay hold of the *proffered* gift. He showed us that God desired to give us much more largely, than most people enjoy, and that if we would only *empty out all of self*, and let God fill us, we would labor with much greater power, and would enjoy the "rest promised to the people of God." The peace that "passeth all understanding," can be had, by those who will take it, and that pentecostal powers will be showered on the church as of old, if only the church would get ready to receive it. Rich dainties were brought forth, out of the Book of God, both new and old, and verily our "souls delighted in fatness."

"The high calling in Christ Jesus," and the spiritual power are very dear to the heart of Brother Bowman, as indeed to all of us, who labor for "His coming." Where there is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, there is always a missionary zeal. O, if our brethren would only get closer to God, and work only in His name, and only by His methods, and upon His authority, there would be more pentecostal sermons, and also more pentecostal blessings.

I daily thank God, that the brethren have for their creed only the Bible, and the only fears that I entertain, are that possibly we are not *ready to take that exalted position*. Brethren, that means unequivocally *Holy Spirit guidance, and Jesus walking with us daily*.

The past failures of the church, have proven that she, as a congregation, of fallible men and women, can not successfully do the great work of Almighty God. The renovation of creeds, amendments of confessions of faith, adoption of so many, and different systems of government, failures of missionary enterprises, only prove that unqualified men have tried to do things, that were not designed of God, and the Holy Spirit was not in their work. Missionaries can never be successful, and lean on an arm of flesh. Man made plans are a failure in the work of the Lord. The sooner we learn that, and place men and women in charge of our missions who are spirit filled, the sooner

will we see pentecostal showers, and results from the expenditure of the Lord's money, that will amaze us, and fill us with wonder at the riches of the grace of God.

At the close of our three weeks meeting, we entered into a three days Missionary convention, the program of which was printed in these pages some weeks ago. The convention services began at 9:30 A. M. each day, and were spiritual, and thrilling with interest. We had with us, in addition to Brother Bowman, brother J. L. Gillin, of Waterloo, and brother Z. T. Livengood, of Lanark, either two of whom are a host in the Lord's work. It is not necessary for me to add that the subjects were well handled, for the interest increased from the beginning to the close of the convention. Something over two hundred dollars of the Lord's money will be gathered, for His work, as a result of this convention.

At the close of the convention at Milledgeville, Brother Bowman went to Lanark, and opened convention services there on the 17th of December, and with the assistance of the pastor, Brother Livengood, continued to the 22nd, with the result of something more than two hundred dollars, of pledges and cash, gathered of the Lord's money.

It was my desire to attend all three of these conventions, but a funeral taking place in my congregation prevented, so that I could not be present at the Lanark convention.

On the 24th of December, we opened convention at the Enon church, near Waterloo, Ia., with Brother Bowman, and the pastor of the church, Brother Gillin. Also Brother Hilderbrand, of the Hudson church, was with us in some of the sessions. We continued through three days, with increasing interest. The Waterloo church spent Christmas in missionary service of the Lord. A very fitting way to spend it indeed. The interest increased, as we approach the closing service, and resulted in gathering, more than two hundred dollars of the Lord's money, and many who did not give either cash or pledges, said they would pay regularly to the cause. A conservative estimate of the result of these three conventions, I think would be not less than a thousand dollars for the mission work.

The foreign work is taking hold of the hearts of our brethren, and we rejoice that the Lord is accounting us worthy of being witnesses for Him in distant lands. To these conventions, we took a supply of missionary barrels, and many homes purchased and still we are sending them out, and soon we may hope to see a regular source of supply, for the Lord's treasury, as the children, and all the family, of the Lord's consecrated people, begin to give regularly, daily, and weekly, of their earnings, the portions that belong to the Lord.

MISSIONARY BARRELS

I feel that I must mention the missionary barrel plan, and emphasize its importance. Each member of every family in the church

should have two missionary barrels, one for Foreign, and the other for Home Missions. And they should each week drop into those barrels their offering for the Lord's work. And at the end of the month, let the pastor, or some one appointed for that purpose gather all the barrels in, and remit the offerings to the Secretary of the (general) Mission Board, starting the amount for home mission work, and the amount for foreign work. Now this plan is simple, and the pennies gathered up this way all over the brotherhood, will make a large sum. Now brethren, pardon me, but I wish to urge you to adopt this very systematic plan.

THE PLEDGES

Some of our brethren have thought that the pledge would not be a good plan. But their fears are ungrounded. It is a grand success. Wherever we can hold missionary convention, the pledge will be the most successful way to raise money, and then it has the advantage of enabling the Board to estimate some thing of the amount we can expect to raise for the work yearly. We need system, and a regular giving. I earnestly commend to all our ministers the pledge system, and the barrel plan. You will find that they will both work good.

MISSIONARY CONVENTIONS

Brethren, the only work the church has to do on earth, is to carry the gospel to the lost, and preach it to the Nations of the earth, for a witness. Now one of the ways to arouse interest in this great work, is by having missionary conventions. You will never know how much good, the missionary spirit will do your congregation, until you have tried them. Will not the Secretaries of each district call missionary conventions, to be held in all the largest congregations in his district. Try it. It will benefit your congregations more than any kind of meetings that you can hold. You can be sure that when you are doing the Lord's work, He will bless you. And a church that is giving money for the extension of the Kingdom of God, is not dead. If some of our churches are getting sleepy, or dying, just arouse them with a good missionary convention, and see how quickly they will take on new life. You are alive if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, and if He does so well, you will be full of missionary zeal.

I have aimed to send by mail blank pledges to all the ministers living in the Illiokota District and if any have not received them, if they will write me, I will send them at once. I have also a supply of the missionary barrels, which I will send out to you, at two cents each, by express (not prepaid,) or I will send them by mail, prepaid, two for five cents.

I will be glad to have your orders for either the pledges, or the barrels.

To those who have received the blank pledges by mail, let me say, distribute them to your members, and friends of missions, and ask them to subscribe a cent a day, and more if they are able. Anyone can give a